

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /140 W

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R 091100 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1407

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAGION 8146

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR 1 X PLUS 100 8 MAY 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL DANANG DATED MAY 8
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 499

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 100,
MAY 8, 1973

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

LEVEL OF INCIDENTS IN MR I REMAINED LOW AT 19, INCLUDING THREE
GROUND ATTACKS AND 16 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) OF 407 MORTAR
ROUNDS. ALL THREE OF THE GROUND ATTACKS AND NINE OF THE ABFS
OCCURRED IN THE FIRST DIVISION AO WEST OF HUE. CORPS- WIDE,
CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 3 KIA, 16 WIA; ENEMY 27 KIA, 2
CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A TOTAL OF 1,813 ROUNDS;
1,103 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 710 SOUTH.

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2. COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

A. I CORPS G-2 REPORTS THAT THE KHE SANH AIRFIELD IS NOW COVERED WITH PSP AND HAS BEEN EXTENDED AN ADDITIONAL 300 METERS SINCE THE LAST REPORT. ALSO, 59 TRUCKS CARRYING 50 GALLON DRUMS OF PETROLEUM AND FIVE TRUCKS CARRYING SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES (SAM) WERE REPORTED SIGHTED ON HIGHWAY #9.

B. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE INTELLIGENCE AS REPORTED TO AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI INDICATES THE EXTENSION OF SMALLER FEEDER ROADS AND TRAILS LEADING OFF THE NEWLY BUILT TRUNK ROAD IN NORTHWESTERN QUANG NGAI (QUANG TIN BORDER TO DAK DRINH RIVER, BS 2864) AND TRUCKS AND BULLDOZERS ON THE ROAD EXTENDING EASTWARD FROM SON HA DISTRICT THROUGH TRA BONG DISTRICT. THE WIDENED TRAILROAD FROM NORTHWEST BINH SON DISTRICT TO JUST WEST OF THE DISTRICT TOWN CAN NOW BE PLAINLY SEEN FROM THE AIR OVER NATIONAL ROUTE 1. (REF DANANG AIRGRAM 18.)

3. ICCS:

A. SENIOR CANDEL OF THE CHU LAI SUB- REGION ICCS INFORMED AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI THAT ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY A SAIGON ICCS TEAM WAS TO OBSERVE THE PLANNED RELEASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS IN QUANG NGAI ON MAY 2, IN A LAST MINUTE CHANGE THE RESPONSIBILITY WAS GIVEN TO THE CHU LAI TEAM. THE RELEASE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED OFF, BUT CANDEL STRESSED THAT THE ICCS HELICOPTER EMBARGO WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THE ICCS BEING PRESENT IN ANY CASE.

B. SENIOR POLDEL CHU LAI, COLONEL BULAR, WHO SERVED WITH THE ICC IN HANOI IN 1966-67 AND IS RESPECTED BY EVERYONE IN CHU LAI AS AN OFFICER AND A TOUGH BARGAINER, WAS ACCORDED THE UNUSUAL HONOR OF A GVN TOUR THROUGH CHU LAI BASE ON HIS TRANSFER RECENTLY.

C. SENIOR CANDEL OF THE CHU LAI SUB- REGION ICCS COMPLAINED AGAIN RECENTLY TO AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI CONCERNING THE INTRANSIGENCE AND OBSTRUCTIVE TACTICS OF THE HUNGDEL IN PARTICULAR. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CANADIANS FEEL THE HUNGARIANS HAVE DELIBERATELY TRIED TO CONFUSE WITNESSING GIVEN EVIDENCE
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DURING INVESTIGATIONS.

4. PRISONER RELEASE:

TWO HUNDRED PRISONERS WERE TRUCKED TO THE THACH HAN RIVER IN QUANG TRI ON MAY 7 FOR THEIR RELEASE TO THE PRG. THE RELEASE WAS OFFICIALLY OBSERVED BY AN ICCS TEAM FROM SAIGON CENTRAL.

FOUR PRISONERS REFUSED TO RETURN TO THE NORTH BANK AND
" RALLIED" TO THE GVN (SEPTEL).

5. GVN ACTIVITIES:

AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT THE ROAD BEING REBUILT BY
THE GVN FROM NGHIA HANH TO MINH LONG DISTRICT TOWN HAS NOW BEEN
EXTENDED TO WITHIN ABOUT EIGHT KILOMETERS OF ITS DESTINATION.
THE VC HAVE COMMITTED AT LEAST ONE LOCAL FORCE BATTALION AND
ONE SAPPER COMPANY TO REINFORCE RESISTANCE AGAINST WHAT THEY
CONSIDER A TRUST INTO AN AREA THEY CONTROL. THE GVN RESPONDED
BY REINFORCING ONE RF COMPANY AND A RECON COMPANY WITH TWO
RANGER BATTALIONS. ARVN RANGERS ARE OCCUPYING HIGH GROUND
ACROSS THE SONG VE RIVER OPPOSITE THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION FOR THE
FIRST TIME SINCE LAST AUTUMN.

THOMSA
UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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